

## CLAIMS

- 56 R17
1. A method for facilitating early brain development, the method comprising:  
obtaining a system for facilitating early brain development, wherein said system targets a predetermined stage of development;  
selecting an activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one activity that stimulates a predetermined aspect of brain development;  
engaging a child's attention to facilitate an interactive play session with a caregiver;  
modeling a selected activity for said child to instruct said child how to perform said selected activity; and  
prompting said child to perform said selected activity.
  2. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a system comprises:  
obtaining stage-specific activity cards comprising caregiver directions for facilitating said interactive play session with said child; and  
obtaining a first item whose use by a caregiver during said interactive play session with said child is designed to stimulate a predetermined aspect of brain development, said predetermined aspect of brain development comprising at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination.
  3. The method of claim 2, wherein obtaining a system further comprises obtaining a second item whose use by a caregiver during an interactive play session with a child is designed to foster a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development, said predetermined concept comprising at least one of attention, bonding, and communication.
  4. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting an activity card further comprises selecting an activity card which includes at least one of a list of alternate activities and a list of activity variations, wherein each of said alternate activities and said activity variations is selected to foster at least one of said predetermined aspect of brain development and a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined aspect of brain development comprises at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined concept comprises at least one of attention, bonding, and communication.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein engaging a child's attention comprises focusing a child's attention on an activity by establishing eye contact with said child and directing said child's attention to a defined space.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein engaging a child's attention further comprises encouraging said child through at least one of a visual stimulus and an auditory stimulus.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said visual stimulus comprises at least one of varied facial expressions and use of an object.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said auditory stimulus comprises at least one of varied voice intonations and use of a sound-generating object.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said varied voice intonations comprise at least one of volume, pitch, intensity, and inflection.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein prompting said child to perform said selected activity comprises providing instructions to said child in a predetermined manner.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said predetermined manner comprises at least one of speaking slowly, speaking quietly, speaking simply, speaking excitedly, and giving minimal verbal cues.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of engaging, modeling, and prompting are performed in a playful manner.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said system is an electronic system for facilitating early brain development.

16. A method for facilitating early brain development, the method comprising:  
obtaining stage-specific activity cards comprising caregiver directions for facilitating an interactive play session with a child;

obtaining at least one item whose use by a caregiver during said interactive play session with said child is designed to stimulate a predetermined aspect of brain development, said predetermined aspect of brain development comprising at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination;

selecting an activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one activity that stimulates said predetermined aspect of brain development;

engaging a child's attention to facilitate said interactive play session with said caregiver;

modeling a selected activity for said child to instruct said child how to perform said selected activity; and

prompting said child to perform said selected activity.

17. A system for facilitating early brain development, the system comprising:  
at least one stage-specific activity card comprising caregiver directions for facilitating an interactive play session with a child; and

at least one item whose use by a caregiver during said interactive play session is designed to stimulate a predetermined aspect of brain development, said predetermined aspect of brain development comprising at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising at least one item whose use by a caregiver during said interactive play session is designed to foster a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development, said predetermined concept comprising at least one of attention, bonding, and communication.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said stage-specific activity card further comprises at least one of a list of alternate activities and a list of activity variations, wherein each alternate activity and each activity variation is designed to foster at least one of said predetermined aspect of brain development and said predetermined concept that promotes early brain development.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein said system is an electronic system for facilitating early brain development.

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